

THE BOER WAR

Its Causes, and
its Interest to
Canadians 

With a Glossary of Cape Dutch,
and Kafir Terms



By E. B. BIGGAR.



BIGGAR, SAMUEL & CO.

TORONTO AND MONTREAL

1899

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PREFATORY NOTE

As the average Canadian has not had the opportunity of studying the history of South Africa and the causes which have led to the present Boer war, and many are desirous of knowing the facts, the brief sketch here presented may serve a useful purpose. The writer spent five years in South Africa, and since his return to Canada has followed events there with close attention. As a believer in the future greatness of both countries, he states his reasons why Canadians should have a personal interest in the struggle now going on in South Africa.

The term Boer is used throughout the sketch to designate the Dutch inhabitants of the Transvaal, and—except when it is specifically applied—does not refer to the Dutch of the Free State, or our fellow colonists of Dutch origin in the Cape Colony, who are a much more progressive, enlightened and generally well educated people. While reports of the disaffection of the Dutch on the frontier were being circulated the writer could not help being impressed with the meaning of an item in a Cape paper just to hand, which records the departure from Capetown of a batch of young Colonists, all having Dutch names, who were going to England to finish their university education.

Even of the Transvaal Boers perhaps the worst that will be said, after the passions of the war have subsided, is that they have been shamefully misled by their too well trusted ruler.

Toronto, November 1st, 1890.

The Boer War*

The obduracy of the Transvaal Boers and their president in refusing to concede the common rights of man to citizens not of their own race, is turning the attention of the civilized world to South Africa and its people. That quarter of the world possesses unusual interest to Canadians, not only from the standpoint of imperial politics, but from its commercial development and its possibilities as a field for Canadian trade.

The Cape of Good Hope was discovered by Diaz, a Portuguese navigator, six years before Columbus landed in America, but though used as a port of call by the Portuguese for a century afterwards, it remained for two English captains, in the employ of the East India Company—Shillinge and Fitzherbert—to make formal claim of sovereignty in the name of England in 1620. After some rivalry between the English and the Dutch East India companies, the latter, realizing the salubrity of the climate and the fine soil, sent out an expedition under Jan Van Riebeek—in whose honor the Hon. Cecil Rhodes has recently had a statue erected in Capetown—to make a permanent settlement, and thus began in 1652 the Dutch occupation of the Cape. Little by little the settlements extended back from the Castle on Table Bay, but the life of the settlers was the life of white slaves. They were not allowed to sell their produce to visiting ships, but could only sell to the company at prices fixed by the company. On the other hand, they were not permitted to purchase goods except from the company and at prices fixed, of

*These Papers are now appearing in the *Canadian Engineer*.

course, by the company. They and the artisans of the town were, moreover, bled at every turn by the company's officials, and if they attempted to complain to headquarters in Holland their complaints were either suppressed altogether, or the complainants were imprisoned as treasonable persons or otherwise marked out for persecution. The farmers had no title to the lands they brought under cultivation, and were often ejected after working a lifetime upon their lands. They were plainly told that they held their property by grace of the company. Offences, which now would scarcely come under the criminal code, were visited with death in its most fiendish forms. Crucifixion was a common mode of capital punishment, and another was the tying of the victim with his back on a wheel, where his body was broken, and he was left "a prey to the birds of heaven." The rack and the gallows were the common means of punishing slaves. It is not to be wondered at that the Dutch settlers sought to escape this tyranny, and from time to time, in spite of threats and the company's claim of jurisdiction, many got beyond the reach of the company, risking the enmity of the natives in their migration. Thus began the "trekking" of the Boers, which dates back to 1670, and has been a peculiar characteristic of Dutch colonization down to the present day.

During the upheavals of the French revolution, England felt the necessity of possessing the Cape to save her East Indian trade, and after a feeble resistance the Castle capitulated to Sir James Craig in 1795. At the peace of Amiens in 1803 the Cape was restored to the Dutch, but was finally taken in 1806 by Sir David Baird. The first taste of individual liberty and reasonable government enjoyed by the Cape Dutch was given to them by Great Britain. With the advent of Britain at the Cape, the Dutch farmers got their first clear titles to land, they got district courts, where justice was for the first time administered with fairness and without the corruption which had made their masters so odious.

The people got their first regular school system, and their first postal system from their new British rulers, who also did away with the system of punishing offenders by the cross, the wheel, and the rack, those brutal instruments of torture being destroyed at the very outset of the British regime.

Such, in a few words, was the contrast between British and Dutch rule at the Cape. It is not to be denied that between the Home Government and the colonial rulers many mistakes have been made in the subsequent history of British rule in South Africa; but more often than otherwise these errors were made through mistaken leniency or mistaken philanthropy towards Boer and native alternately. Perhaps the most unpardonable grievance nursed by the Boers in the present century was the emancipation of the slaves in the Cape Colony in 1834. Many Boers to the present day believe with apparent honesty that a Kafir has no soul, and class him with the wild beasts of the veldt. While other nations besides the United States have freed the slaves without compensation to the slave owners, Great Britain voted to the slave holders of the Cape £1,247,000. This was only half the amount of the appraisement, but it must be remembered that the slaves of the West Indies and other parts of the empire had to be freed at the same time at a total cost of £20,000,000 --an enormous sum for those days, and the sublimest exhibition of the awakening of national conscience ever recorded in the history of nations. Though the Boers must have known from the agitation that had been going on in England for the preceding thirty years that the emancipation of slaves must come, there was a great outcry when the amount of compensation was announced, and, to make matters worse, from their standpoint, a horde of self-appointed agents, working on the circumstance that the money had to be paid in London, bought up the claims of the farmers for a mere song in many cases, and the enraged slave-owning farmers trekked into the interior to the number of several

thousand, founding what is now the Orange Free State, the Transvaal, and a portion of Natal. British settlers had anticipated them in Natal, and after some bloodshed and a few years' hesitancy on the part of the Home Government, British sovereignty was proclaimed over Natal in 1843. Although the British Government had warned the emigrant Boers that they were still British subjects, those who settled in the Free State and the Transvaal were allowed to rule themselves. The Free State was indeed taken under British rule for a number of years, but that rule was withdrawn under the protest of a large minority of the inhabitants, and the State was left an independent Republic in 1854. Under the wise and common-sense rule of the late Sir John Brand, who was president for twenty-five years, the Free State has had till now the best relations, almost uninterrupted, with Great Britain and with her colonial neighbors. There was but one serious difficulty and that arose out of the discovery of the diamond fields on the borders of the State in 1867. The land had been owned and was still claimed by a Griqua chief, named Waterboer, and the British Government having bought up his rights, proclaimed the diamond fields British territory in 1871. The Free State, which had claimed a part of these fields, withdrew under protest, but whatever the merits of its claims they were generously compensated by a payment of £90,000, with which the little State was well satisfied, and with which it built its first railway—a road that stands to-day as the best asset possessed by the State. While the Dutch in the Free State and Natal, as well as in the Cape, have settled down to a fairly general friendliness towards the British, the history of the Transvaal Boers has been marred by a strong and persistent hatred of British Government and people. Peopled largely by the irreconcileables, who had left Natal and the Free State on the advent of the British, and utterly unable or unwilling to understand the British idea of government of the Kafir tribes, they have become the Ishmaels of South African civilization

—their hand forever against the Kafirs on the one side and against the British on the other. They have so far failed to see the advantages of the golden rule, or to read the signs of the times, that they have perpetuated the same ideas of lordship as those under which their ancestors groaned in the 17th century. In 1877, when the country was in a state of bankruptcy, Sir Theophilus Shepstone annexed the Transvaal to the British Empire, without active opposition. Whatever may be thought of this step, it was taken with the best intentions, and with the desire to save the Boers from the destruction which would have been their fate at the hands of the Zulu King Cetywayo. The step once taken, it is now generally realized that a terrible mistake was made in giving the country back to what has proved a monstrous system of misrule. The British Government, however, gave the Boers just ground of complaint when it left the Transvaal for three years without any representative institutions, and permitted during that time a military oligarchy, composed of men who gave no consideration to the susceptibilities of the Dutch inhabitants, a large part of whom would have been fairly contented under a system which gave them a voice in the affairs of the country. It was unfortunate that just when the British Government began to be awake to the seriousness of Boer discontent, and were actually considering the constitution framed by Sir Bartle Frere, the flames of rebellion broke out, with the result that the British were defeated in three engagements, through the guerilla tactics of the Boer sharpshooters, and then the Gladstone Government restored the republic under that “suzerainty,” which has been ever since a source of misapprehension to the Boers.

Before alluding, in the next section, to the present condition of affairs in South Africa, it is worth while to remember this teaching of the past, that wherever the British and Dutch have co-operated either in colonization, in politics or commerce, they have both prospered. The British possession of the diamond fields

was the financial salvation of the Free State; and the British operation of the Transvaal gold fields has lifted that republic from commercial nothingness to a state that has become at once the chief power and the chief danger to the neighboring states and colonies.



As there exists a great deal of misconception about the causes of the present war, we shall endeavor to review the main facts.

What led to the annexation of the Transvaal? It was not lust of gold, for only small alluvial diggings had been found as yet, and the great gold reefs of Johannesburg were then as little dreamt of as the Klondyke of Canada. It was because the Republic was bankrupt,* the Boers in many districts having refused to pay any more taxes, the country reduced to a state of anarchy by the incapacity of its administrators, by factions bitterly antagonistic to each other, and threatening civil war, and the failure of the Boer commandos to subjugate the native Chief Sekukuni, who was bringing other native tribes down upon the territory, the principal danger being threatened by the Zulus, under Cetywayo. This renowned Zulu King was anxious to pay off old scores with the Boers, who had constantly encroached on his territory, and frequently captured and enslaved his people and robbed them of their cattle and lands. The British Government might have allowed the Boer Republic to find its own way out of its financial difficulties, but when it came to their relations with the natives there was danger that once the Zulu King had overrun the Transvaal, with his 40,000 warriors, he could not restrain his army at that achievement, but it would then turn upon the British colony of Natal, which was neighbor to

*The Government £1 notes or "blue backs" then sold at a shilling, or say five cents on the dollar; while the salaries of the civil servants were three months in arrears.

both, and which then had a white population of only 30,000, against a native population of 300,000. Under these circumstances, and considering that a petition for British intervention had already been signed by 3,000 out of 8,000 of the voters of the country, Sir Theophilus Shepstone, who had been authorized by the Home Government to act as he thought wise, annexed the country, without any force other than a personal escort of twenty-five mounted policemen. The British then took in hand the conquest of Sekukuni, which the Boers had failed to achieve, and then had to deal with Cetywayo, who, robbed of his revenge upon the Boers, now turned sullen towards the British. The next act in the drama was the great Zulu war, which was fought with no help from the Boers, except that given by a single family, Piet Uys, and his sons. These people, forgetting their rescue from certain destruction at the hands of the Zulus, no sooner found this dreadful menace removed, than they began to agitate against British rule. As stated before, they had one real grievance in the dilatoriness of the Imperial Government in granting them a local legislature; but this at last was being framed when rebellion was brought about through the enforcement of taxes, which the Boers refused more obstinately to the British than they had done to their own authorities.

In this rebellion they were led by a man, who, when the history of that land comes to be written, will be set down as the evil genius of the Dutch race in South Africa—Paul Kruger. This man, who was born a British subject in the Cape Colony, first came into prominence among his countrymen as a hunter and fighter—a fighter first against the Kafirs and then against his own people, as well as the English, whom he hates as cordially as the British sailor of Nelson's day did the French and Spaniards. It seems curious that a man of Kruger's pretenses to piety should be so

tenacious of liberty and natural rights for himself and his fellow-Boers, and yet refuse the most elementary rights to British people in his country; and that he should see nothing but iniquity in Dr. Jameson's quixotic dash to rescue the Outlanders from misgovernment, and yet see no wrong in his own invasion of a friendly State with no better motive than a lust of power. Some forty years ago, at a time when the Transvaal and the Orange Free State (a neighboring Republic, composed of his own fellow-countrymen), were at peace, Paul Kruger formed a plot with M. W. Pretorius, another Boer leader, to overthrow the government of the Free State. While Kruger invaded the country, at the head of a commando, inciting the Free State Boers to rise, as he proceeded, Pretorius was set to instigate the Free State natives to revolt. The Free State forces were, however, brought together in much quicker time than he anticipated, and when Kruger saw himself confronted with double the number of cannon his own force had, he discreetly withdrew.

That Kruger's intrigues during the days of the first Republic were a cause of the country's troubles is shown by the statement of the last President, Thomas Burgers,* who, referring to the events that led up to the annexation, said: "Fruitlessly did I press upon him (Kruger), the fact that by showing how our danger lay in want of unity, the British Government would have cause to step in, on the ground of humanity, to avert

* In the course of his last address to his Volksraad, President Burgers said: "I would rather be a policeman under a strong government than the President of such a state. * * You have ill-treated the natives, you have shot them down, you have sold them into slavery, and now you have to pay the penalty. * * The fourth point which we have to take into account affects our relations with our English neighbors. It is asked, what have they to do with our position? I tell you as much as we have to do with that of our Kafir neighbors. As little as we can allow barbarities among the Kafirs on our borders, as little can they allow that in a state on their borders anarchy and rebellion should prevail. * * To-day a bill for £1,100 was laid before me for signature, but I would sooner have cut off my right hand than sign that paper, for I have not the slightest ground to expect that when that bill becomes law there will be a penny to pay it with." President Burgers—who left the Transvaal broken-hearted, not because of the annexation, but because of the intriguing which brought about the condition of things rendering that step inevitable—just before he died left a statement of the case for the benefit of posterity, in which he shows how Kruger plotted with the annexation faction in order to oust Burgers and get the presidency for himself. Kruger overdid his part, but though his ambition was balked for the time by the annexation which he did not count upon, he continued his intrigues against the British with the result which history tells.

civil war, and to present a general rising of the natives.

* * * He would not hear of retiring. Had I not endured in silence, had I not borne patiently all the vile accusations, but out of selfishness or fear, told the plain truth of the case, the Transvaal would never have had the consideration it has now received from the British Government. However unjust the annexation was, my self-justification would have exposed the Boers to such an extent, and the state of the country in such a way, that it would have been deprived both of the sympathy of the world, and the consideration of English politicians."

After the annexation, he was appointed field cornet (a position corresponding to our sheriff, but including also the duties of tax collector and other functions), of his district, at a salary of £200, which in those days was a good income. By false representations, however, he drew £300, or what came to the same thing, withheld tax moneys to that amount over his salary. The administration called upon him to make good the amount, but he did not do so then, or since. He only met the Government's request by demanding an increase of salary! The correspondence in the case is on record. How much the consciousness of this fraud had to do with the intrigues he engaged in against the British Government, it is hard to say. At all events, while holding an office under the British Government, he was engaged in agitations against it, and became the leader in the armed rebellion that followed. After the British defeats in the skirmishes at Laing's Nek, Majuba Hill and Ingogo, and while British reinforcements, to the number of 10,000 men, were gathered, the Gladstone Government stayed the sword-arm that was ready to strike back, and an armistice was arranged, followed by the convention of 1881, by which the Republic was restored, subject to the suzerainty of the Queen. By this instrument, the right of internal self-government was given to "the inhabitants" of the Transvaal, without prejudice as to

nationality, and in the discussions by which the intent of its provisions was explained, Mr. Kruger distinctly declared that all would be put on an equality, as regarded the franchise and other rights. These discussions were taken down at the time, and form part of the records in the colonial office. At that time the Boers were in a large majority, and it is possible Kruger might have kept faith had the population remained thus, but Englishmen began to come to the country in greater numbers, and in 1886 the discovery of the now celebrated Witwatersrand gold fields brought people from all quarters of the globe, until the alien or outlander population, which of course included Englishmen, outnumbered the Boers. Kruger had from the first aimed to keep all power in the hands of the Dutch, and hence began the evasions and trickery by which the plain intentions of the negotiators of the original convention were to be thwarted. His ambition did not stop here. He purposed the formation of a great military state, which would centralize the Dutch influence in South Africa, and establish a Dutch republic extending from the Cape to the Zambesi, with Pretoria as the capital. For a long time this ambition, though steadily pursued, was concealed, and even now there are many well-informed public men in England and America who have either not grasped the situation or refused to believe the designs so steadily pursued by this cunning trickster. The people of the Orange Free State, under the misguiding influence of their present head, President Steyn—a third-rate attorney, possessed of none of the commonsense statesmanship of the late Sir John Brand, who so wisely guided the little State for twenty-five years previously—were easily led into these designs, and in the Cape Colony, the widespread ramifications of the Afrikander Bond—a sort of granger organization, having for its motto: "Africa for the Afrikanders"—afforded good ground to work upon, as its membership was almost exclusively Dutch. The plan, as regarded Cape Colony, was to overturn British

authority gradually, allowing Britain to retain the naval station at Simon's Bay, and a certain "suzerainty," which could be strained to the breaking-point as time went on. Steyn, the Free State president, with his usual lack of diplomacy, gave a plain statement of these designs in a speech just a year ago, and anyone who studies the wording of most of Kruger's recent despatches and his replies to the enquiries of American and other newspapers, will see how he claims to act as champion of the whole of South Africa, though the difficulty is supposed to be with the Transvaal only. It was made plain to the British element in South Africa, and to the Home Government, that Britain must either make good her claim of paramountcy or give over the rule of South Africa to the Boers. As one of the Boers put it, there could not be two "bosses" in South Africa, and it became a question, which was it to be, Boer or Briton?

In pursuance of his policy of Napoleonizing South Africa, President Kruger, at the head of a delegation of three, went to London in 1884 to attempt to get a release from all semblance of British control, and to get a formal confirmation of the encroachments he had been making on independent native tribes since the convention of 1881. He represented to Lord Derby, the Secretary of State for the colonies, that his burghers were discontented under the existing convention, which they felt implied interference with their internal affairs. The deputation drew up a draft of a new convention, in which the name of the Transvaal was changed to the "South African Republic," and in which the British suzerainty was expressly abolished. In discussing this draft, Lord Derby politely, but firmly, informed the deputation that "neither in form nor in substance was it such as Her Majesty's Government could agree to;" but that as the paramountcy of Great Britain was an obvious fact, and did not require a document to establish it, he had no objection to satisfying the susceptibilities of the Boers by accepting the change of name,

and by omitting any specific use of the word "suzerainty," which Kruger had said was offensive to them. And so, clinging to the letter of this change, Kruger built up his claim that the Transvaal was now a "Sovereign International State," though the new convention of 1884 distinctly prevents the Transvaal from making any treaty with a foreign power without the consent of Great Britain. Without trying to define the term "suzerainty," plain men will question the "sovereign independence" of a country whose autonomy was given as an act of grace, and which could not make its own treaties. But even if there were no suzerainty, the conduct of the Boer Government had rendered it liable to be called to account in a dozen ways under common international law.



Some people ask, was not the Boer Government justified in its recent policy, by the Jameson raid? The answer to that question is that the Jameson raid was the result of Boer tyranny and misrule, and not the cause of it. Had Kruger treated the Uitlanders as white men with natural rights, and had he not laid on burden after burden, and taken away right after right, with studied hostility towards British subjects in particular, there would have been no Jameson raid. The educational restrictions, the arming and fort building, the prohibition of public meetings, and the iniquitous press law, and other grievances, all preceded the Jameson raid. The people of Johannesburg and other Uitlander centres began to despair of any action from the British Government, and yet, while agitating persistently for their rights, the majority of the members of the "National Union," formed at the time to obtain redress for the people's grievances, publicly and privately assured the President that they had no desire to upset the republican form of government. And there is complete evidence that these sentiments were genuine with

the Uitlanders at that time. Dr. Jameson's brave, but quixotic raid, as it was carried out, put the people of Johannesburg in a false position, and they have been unjustly charged with cowardice. It is not denied by the National Union leaders that an agreement was made with him to come to their aid. But after smuggling in 3,000 rifles, the leaders found that more had to be done to make the rising a success—for it was intended to seize Pretoria, whose forts, then under repair, were exposed and ill-garrisoned—and so they sent word to Jameson to wait on the Bechuanaland border till they notified him. Their object was not merely to become better equipped for the struggle, but to declare to the world that the struggle was their own, and not brought about through an invasion. They proposed to have a new flag, so that there should be no question of the independence of the movement. Dr. Jameson, however, became impatient, and appears to have disregarded either the requests of the committee or the warnings of the Imperial Government, who wired him as soon as they heard of his intention. The reader will remember how his force of 400 or 500 men were caught by a Boer force of three times his number before he reached Johannesburg, and compelled to surrender, the leaders in the movement at Johannesburg being unaware of his approach till too late to do anything. These leaders were arrested, and, as we know, heavily fined, the fines aggregating over a million pounds, and were bound over for three years not to take any part in the politics of the Transvaal. Their tongues were, therefore, tied, and hence the false impression that has been current regarding this affair. With his characteristic cunning, Kruger sent, as mediators, three men in whom the Johannesburgers had faith, and by promises of reform, made on his behalf through them, but which he had no intention of keeping, the people were induced to lay down their arms, hoping for redress at last. The President saw that the reformers had lost the sympathy of the outside world, through Dr. Jameson's mistake,

and he took the fullest advantage of the fact. He at first pleaded for delay in the execution of the reforms till the excitement of his burghers should be allayed, and when this plea was somewhat worn by time, he repudiated the promises made to the mediators. An ever-increasing revenue, squeezed from the gold fields, enabled him to add to his forts and armaments, and the Jameson raid furnished the excuse that had been wanting before. In the case of Pretoria, the capital and centre of Dutch influence, the guns were mounted pointing outward; in the case of Johannesburg, the Uitlander city, they were placed so as to bear upon the town itself. Taking advantage of the sympathy naturally aroused in the Orange Free State, he drew that republic into a formal alliance by which it bound itself to join the Transvaal in any war that might arise. Before the Jameson raid, official Boerdom was insolent enough in its dealings with aliens, but after the raid, matters grew worse.



To give an idea of all that has been suffered by the Uitlander population of the Transvaal would be impossible in so brief a sketch as this, but a few of the grievances may be stated. First stands the franchise. As already mentioned, when the internal independence of the country was granted in 1881, it was, of course, believed that all white races would be treated alike, and Kruger, in the most distinct manner, promised this. The franchise was at first to be given on a property qualification or upon one year's residence; but in order to cut off those who came in after the annexation, the Volksraad (Parliament) afterwards changed this to five years, and then when time passed by and the five years' citizens looked to the time of enfranchisement, the law was again amended so that a man had to be a constant resident in the country for fourteen years.

When the conditions were looked into, it was seen that even when the fourteen years should have elapsed, the Uitlander would not get his vote, because the claim had to be based on the field cornet's records, and in nine cases out of ten, there were no records of the registration. In many cases the field cornet could not read or write, and in cases where he could, there was a temptation to neglect the duty. In a majority of cases he collected the taxes without making any returns, so that the omission of the names gave no record of the fraud, thus serving the double purpose of concealing his stealings and depriving the Uitlander of his vote. But even if this were honestly carried out, the Uitlander was further discouraged by the provision that he should first have to renounce allegiance to his own country, remaining a political eunuch for these fourteen years, and then when this time expired, he would have to get the recommendation of a majority of the burghers of his district (whom he knows to be hostile), and still after that his application is liable to the veto of the President and Executive. We see the pitfalls so artfully prepared, in order that a man would certainly fall in one if he escaped another. Can it be wondered at that the High Commissioner and the British Government wanted to make sure of the details of the recent proposals made by Kruger at and since the Bloemfontein conference? As President Kruger is a great reader of the Bible, it would be curious to know what he would have to say to the franchise provisions laid down in the 47th chapter of Ezekiel, verses 21 to 23? The Montreal "Witness," in pointing out this principle of Old Testament law, remarks that "the most curious thing in Boer legislation is that they should by special enactment exclude from participation in the land and liberty they enjoy, the very people to whom they are indebted for the Scriptures they prize so highly, and who, even before the Babylonian captivity, extended to the stranger, who came among them, the benefit of the ancient ordinances. This instance, however, only goes to confirm the estimate

made of the Boers by Dr. Livingstone, who described them as narrow, stupid and cruel."

The Boer Government not only excludes both Jews and Roman Catholics from the franchise, but even from working in the civil service. If it is found out that a railway, post office, or other civil servant is a Jew or Catholic, he is quietly but speedily dismissed, and a Boer, Hollander, or German appointed to take his place. The Germans and Hollanders would, however, not be called in if it were not that very few Boers are sufficiently educated to fill these places.

By the trickery and breach of faith before described, the voting-power was kept, as before, in the hands of the Dutch burghers. As not one out of a thousand of the Boers of the rural districts had enough education to fill civic offices of responsibility, many Englishmen held public posts for a time after 1881, but one by one these were dismissed and Hollanders and Germans imported to take their places, until British subjects were almost as completely shut out from all share in the civic life of the country, as they were from political influence. One of the first fruits of this oligarchic rule was the system of plunder by concession. Each session of the Volksraad brought a horde of speculators, who purchased by bribery the sole right to manufacture or sell this or that article in the Transvaal. These monopolies, or "concessions," were secured chiefly by Hollanders and Germans, and hence, we see one mainspring of the active sympathy of Hollanders and Germans in the present contest, for between the fat salaries of the imported officials, and the dividends from the operation of the monopolies, a good stream of money has been flowing into Holland and Germany for some years past. When we consider this, and the extortions of the Netherlands Zuid Afrikan Railway Co., owned and managed by a group of Hollanders, and when we consider that by every device possible, British trade is hampered and Dutch and German imports favored, we

see why the cause of the Boer should be so warmly espoused in Holland and by sections of the German press, even if race affinity were not a factor in the case. We may add to this the work of the Transvaal political agent in Europe, Dr. Leyds—a Dutch pocket edition of Talleyrand—who has been supplied with means to make the agency a nest of intrigue against Great Britain ever since his appointment. The Netherlands Railway Co. has practically controlled the finances and legislation of the State. It has been able to levy the outrageous freight rate, averaging $8\frac{1}{2}$ d., say 17 cents per ton per mile, as compared with 6 cents per ton per mile on the Cape and Natal railways, which themselves return a good dividend to their governments. Yet, when some of Kruger's own friends protested against these extortions, he said he considered his contract a matter of high policy, and would not even hear the subject discussed.



The art by which the combined Boer and Hollander legislators framed laws, which, while appearing to the outside world to be quite fair, yet could be made to work out to the particular disadvantage of the Uitlander, amounts to a positive genius. For instance, the school laws, while apparently giving a show to English children, are so worked as to school hours, etc., that in practice English children can neither get a chance to learn English or Dutch, while the school tax is so artfully fixed that the English parent, whose child is robbed of its chance of education, has to pay £7 against the Boers' £5. A law, to forcibly suppress all English private schools even, was proposed in the Volksraad, and only defeated by two votes. The school law is so beautifully arranged, in the case of Johannesburg, that the grand sum of £650 a year is spent on the children of Uitlanders, who have to pay nine-tenths of the £63,000 spent on education there. Then there is a tax of £20 recently levied on farms. Here the unsuspecting foreigner would see a tax levied on the Boer element

entirely. Kruger cannot be so unfair after all. But look at it a little closer, and you will notice that farms on which the proprietor lives are exempt; look still closer and you see that it applies to farms owned by companies only. Now the Boer never buys stocks or bonds, and never goes into partnership, so you see it hits the Uitlander, who has bought up a Boer farm at five or ten times its agricultural value, on the chance of minerals being found on it. Another example of Boer "slimness": A poll-tax was recently introduced. It was to be levied on all male inhabitants, and there was no distinction or discrimination. Surely this was fair to all? Time answered the question in the same old way, when it became known that the tax of 18s. 6d. was faithfully collected from all Uitlanders, but not one Boer or Hollander has ever been made to pay. These are just a few samples of Krugerite equity.

We are familiar with the press law, by which Kruger has imprisoned and brought financial ruin on editors who have had the courage to run up against him. Of the same brand is the law giving it into the discretion of a policeman to break up a meeting, in the open air, of more than seven persons.



If the torture and degradation of thousands of Englishmen, Americans, Australians, and other peoples, accustomed to free institutions, were not in question, it would be amusing to those knowing the facts, to observe the injured innocence which glowed in the official despatches of the Boer Government right up to the time of the ultimatum. "If these people," said one of these despatches dealing with the petition of 40,000 Uitlanders made direct to the Queen, "instead of complaining to the British authorities had only come to this Government direct, their complaints would have had attention." What had they been doing all these years but complaining to a Government which treated their entreaties with scorn and contempt and only changed the

chastisements by whips for those of scorpions? In 1893, a petition for the redress of grievances, signed by 13,000 Uitlanders, was presented to the Raad, and was received with a general laugh of derision. In 1894, another petition, praying for reforms, and signed by over 35,000 adult male inhabitants, was presented, and received more seriously, and it is due to some of the Dutch members that they made a stand for fair play; but the only response from Kruger, who moulded the Executive at his will, was new restrictions on the Uitlander's liberty, and new burdens on his industry. When the vote was taken on this petition, one of the Boer members was heard to say: "Nothing can settle this but fighting, and there is only one end to the fight. Kruger and his Hollanders have taken away our independence more surely than Shepstone ever did." It is only fair to say that many members of the Raad, who might be called progressive, by comparison, saw what Kruger's policy was leading to, and urged concessions to the Uitlander element. These were supported by a slowly-growing minority of burghers, who were almost as jealous of the Hollander faction as they were of British. But Kruger had his will; and when he found occasions arising where he could not carry his point by straight legislation, he went past the Volksraad and did it illegally, as head of the Executive. On several occasions he upset the decisions of the High Court, and ended by forcing the resignation of Chief Justice Kotze, who refused to prostitute the court, and make it the tool of the Executive. A more pliant man was put in his place, and Chief Justice Kotze was deposed without a pension or other allowance or support to his old age. A sample of the direct and easy way in which the Government overrode the decisions of the courts was furnished by the Doms case, among others. A man named Doms sued the State, but while the case was pending, the Government passed a resolution declaring that Doms had no right to sue! And so Doms was thrown out of court, lost his property, and is now

a cab driver in Pretoria. When the Government wished to defeat the ends of justice, even in the High Court, all it had to do was to declare itself by resolution, and it was done whether the resolution conflicted with the grondwet (constitution), or not. It is scarcely to be wondered at that the Uitlanders lost all hope of fair play when such things could be done.



The foregoing were a few out of many political grievances. On the top of these the people of Johannesburg in particular had their local or municipal grievances no less trying. The condition of Johannesburg has, like other matters in the Transvaal, been much misunderstood by outsiders. The Boer newspapers and public men have sought to make it appear that Johannesburg is made up of the offscourings of the earth, to whom it would be dangerous to give rights of self-government. In the early days, it is true, a great many adventurers came from all parts, but the town passed through that phase of life as all mining communities do; and for some years past it is no better and no worse than the average city of its size. It is not an alluvial mining diggings where men of every stamp can work their own claims, but a settled industry carried on by rock-crushing, as in the Kootenay, and necessitating expensive machinery and expert hands. Indeed, the mining machinery of the Witwatersrand is the most modern, as well as the most extensive in the world, many of the large companies having their own machine shops and operating large steam and electrical plants, with large staffs of the most skilled workmen. The manual labor is done chiefly by natives, but the mining and commercial business—the former having the cleverest mining engineers and experts in the world, and the latter, including branches of the most reputable firms of England, Germany, the United States, etc.—are carried on by white people, among whom there are

practically no Dutch. Where there is so much gold production (the output last year was \$75,000,000), there must be a large number of banks and financial corporations, which of necessity must have trustworthy employees, and so it must be said of business firms. Are the owners of these big mining plants, banks and financial houses likely to put their affairs into the hands of ruffians, drunkards, and thieves? If this question cannot be answered by a moment's reflection, the doubtful reader can satisfy himself by examining a copy of a recent Directory of Johannesburg, and read down the names and occupations. The same directory will show how unfounded is the statement that this agitation is purely a capitalistic one. Now imagine such a city of 80,000 * progressive and energetic inhabitants being governed by thirty farmers; and imagine the representative financial and mining body of the city (the chamber of mines) being refused an ordinary charter of incorporation, on the ground that it would be creating "a State within a State." At first, English-speaking men were chosen to the town council, but to cut them off from self-government, even in municipal matters, President Kruger decreed that only Dutch should be spoken in the council, and so the Anglo-Saxon was debarred there. And the Burgomaster (Mayor) is not elected by the voters, but appointed by the Government. The drainage of the city flows along the streets in open gutters, exhaling poisonous vapors, as was the case in the early days of Capetown, and the people are compelled to drink dangerously unwholesome water, with no power to alter the condition of things. Drunken zarps (policemen) swagger about brandishing revolvers, occasionally shooting down poor natives for some trifle, and insulting Uitlanders (who are not allowed to carry arms), whenever an excuse offers. The killing of Edgar by a squad of zarps, who broke into his house

*Besides the white population there were at the beginning of this year 90,000 blacks.

and murdered him in cold blood, as he was sitting on his bed talking to his wife, is a notorious example. The murderers were arrested, tried, acquitted, and some of them promoted. Such was the municipal condition of Johannesburg up to the present crisis.



The Boer Government of the Transvaal stands condemned by the liquor traffic. In theory, no liquor is sold to the natives, but in the large mining centres, particularly Johannesburg, the native laborers, who are herded in enclosures like cattle, are supplied with the vilest of intoxicating drinks, in such quantities that scarcely a day passes without one or more murders, brought about through drunken natives engaging in "faction fights." It is estimated that one-third of the total native labor supply is rendered non-effective, week in and week out, through natives being incapacitated by drink, while the damage to goods and machinery, through the same cause, is a serious item. So great did this scandal become that the Boer Church was shamed into strong representations against it last year, but though Kruger is himself an abstainer, he sided with the liquor dealers, and would do nothing, on the ground that if this traffic were stopped, a number of honest men would be put out of employment.

The operation of the liquor law in Johannesburg is thus described by a brother of the Rev. Chas. T. Cocking, of King, Ont., writing lately from the Transvaal: "Take the case of the liquor law, which prohibits sale of liquor to natives. Every Sunday one can see hundreds of natives wandering about the mines and suburbs of the town almost mad with drink. Kafir eating-houses are filled with natives drinking, and from which they stagger with sacks full of liquor to be swilled on the open veldt by fraternal groups. A special liquor detective department exists, and yet for twelve months this has gone on. Result? For two or three days following the debauch, hundreds of natives are unable to do their

work, and remain sleeping off their carouse in the mine compounds to the dead loss of the mining companies. Cause? An immensely wealthy liquor syndicate, which, by bribery, etc., prevents the law being effective. The Government is so inconsistent as to absolutely prohibit natives from drinking, but a treaty with Portugal must allow the importation of Kafir liquors and spirits through the port at Delagoa Bay, and from the duty on which they obtain a handsome increase in the revenue."



A word as to the commercial situation. In the year 1884 the revenue of the Transvaal was £161,596, and the expenditure, £184,820. The population at that time was about 45,000, of whom 35,000 to 37,000 were Dutch. That was the year when Kruger went to England to obtain the new convention. The finances of his country were in bad shape, and remembering what England and Englishmen had done to rehabilitate the country financially during the three years of British administration, he had a letter published in the London papers inviting British capitalists, miners and merchants to come and settle in the Transvaal. They accepted the invitation, and in 1885—86 the De Kaap and Witwatersrand fields were discovered, with the result that the revenue for 1898 was £3,329,958, practically all of which is derived from the energies of the Uitlander. In the face of this, Kruger now asks, and the pro-Boer organs throughout the world echo the question: "If the Uitlander does not like the treatment he gets, why does he not stay away?" The Uitlander, upon Kruger's invitation, came to the country, discovered the gold, and built up the industry. Should he be robbed of the business he has created? And if prior occupation is urged by the Boer, how about the Kafirs, whom he has dispossessed of their lands? But while an unnecessary revenue, such as this, is squeezed from one element of the population, the expenditure has gone on to keep pace with it. Last year the expenses of government

were £3,476,844, or sufficient to give every Boer in the country £400 a year. A large part of this, as stated, goes to build up a military power to overawe and oppress the very people whose exertions provide the money; much of it, according to Cecil Rhodes, has gone as a bribery fund to influence elections in the Cape Colony, and carry on the propaganda for seducing the Cape Dutch from their allegiance to Britain. A huge secret service fund is used largely for political purposes in Europe to the same end; while a large but unknown sum is given by the President himself, as "doles," to Boers in the back districts, ostensibly to help farmers in distressed circumstances, but in reality to keep burghers loyal to him. The various monopolies also yield large bribery funds. The dynamite monopoly, by which the sole right to make or sell dynamite was given to one man (afterwards a syndicate), who was permitted to charge 200 per cent. over what the article would cost in the open market, filches from the Witwatersrand mines alone £600,000 a year. Space forbids reference here to the other monopolies, but it may be noted that these monopolies are given to Kruger's favorites on articles that are chiefly imported from Great Britain, or are used chiefly by British subjects. This is one of the numerous violations of the conventions, which provided that the taxation should be equal to all classes. It may also be noted that President Kruger has not only defended these monopolists under all circumstances, but in the numerous cases in which boodling schemes have been unearthed, and scandals exposed—sometimes by honest men in his own party—he has invariably shielded the boodlers and not infrequently promoted them or given them fresh opportunities.



A great deal might be said on the external relations of the Transvaal. The convention of 1884 fixed the boundaries of the Transvaal exactly, and the republic undertook solemnly to respect the independence of

native chiefs outside its territory. Scarcely a year has passed without the violation of the convention in this respect. One of Kruger's first acts was to invade part of the British Protectorate and proclaim it a portion of the Republic, following up the operations of some of his free booters. And he only withdrew because of Mr. Rhodes' protest and the Warren expedition, which cost the British Government over £1,250,000. Then the Boer Government turned its attention to Zululand, which, after an intrigue with Dinizulu against the other chiefs, it invaded and attempted to upset the settlement made by Lord Wolseley. Next they invaded the country of the Matabele whom they had driven out of the Transvaal originally, and who were now under British protection, and they were only turned back by the tact and firmness of Dr. Jameson. Again they tried to lay hands on Tongaland, but the Queen Regent would have nothing to do with any country but England, whose protection she had sought. The invasion and spoliation of Swaziland was another Boer outrage, which Great Britain, from a mistaken notion of keeping peace with the Boers, condoned.

Such are a few of the features of Krugerism in South Africa, and the reader can judge whether they are such as to justify the interference of Great Britain.



It is a subject of wonder to many that the Boers persist in a course which a large number of them must know to be wrong, and stand out against the whole might of the British Empire in so doing. It must be remembered, however, that the vast majority, who never read a newspaper, or a book, except the Bible, are as ignorant of the outside world as the Hudson Bay Indians. Perhaps not ten of the whole body of burghers ever saw a man-of-war or visited England or Europe. Even Kruger and the other members of the Volksraad, who visited England, saw little of its re-

sources; and it must be admitted of Kruger, who is a man absolutely without fear, that if he had the clearest realization of Britain's power, it would make no difference with his policy, so convinced is he that the Boers are the only favored nation of Heaven. What can be done with a man who believes (as Kruger argued with Dr. Hertz, and a deputation of Johannesburg Jews, who came last year to plead for educational freedom), that the Boers are the direct descendants of Isaac, and the Jews the descendants of Ishmael, and that, therefore, it would be against the Scriptures for both people to inherit the land together! It must also be understood that, whatever the Boer leaders know, the Boers themselves are convinced that when the Gladstone Government gave back the country in 1881, it was through fear, and that the profession of generosity or justice was merely a cloak for this fear. And they point, in confirmation, to the fact that when Mr. Gladstone, after denouncing the annexation, in his Midlothian speeches in Opposition, came into power, he refused all along to restore the Boer Government until he had the experience of Majuba Hill. The leniency with which the British Government treated the Transvaal in its repeated violations of the two conventions, and the way in which they were allowed to despoil the Swazi tribe, were to the Boer mind only so much accumulating evidence of this fear, apparent to him as the years went on. Perhaps Kruger himself thought the Transvaal was a match for Britain, as J. P. Fitzpatrick relates the following, in his "*Transvaal from Within:*" "The late W. Y. Campbell, as spokesman of a deputation from Johannesburg, addressing President Kruger, stated in the course of his remarks that the people of Johannesburg 'protested' against a certain measure. The President jumped up in one of his characteristic moods, and said: 'Protest! Protest! What is the good of protesting? You have not got the guns! I have.' And Mr. Campbell, in reporting this in Johannesburg, remarked: 'That man is sensible; he knows the position. I claim

to be sensible, also, and I know he is right; you can take my name off any other deputations, for we'll get nothing by asking.'"

We have evidence that several members of the Raad would have given the Uitlanders, not all, but some of the rights they vainly sought, but Kruger had become too powerful an autocrat, and they were no match for him either in diplomacy or determination. But though the Boers were ignorant, they were not so ignorant as to fail to realize that if the franchise was granted to Uitlanders, and a clean, honest administration inaugurated, these "doles" to burghers would cease, and they would no longer be able to live in ease at the expense of the hard-working alien. Hence, their determination to do what would otherwise appear insane—to risk the destruction of the Republic itself rather than to do justice at the cost of giving up control.



When the question of sending a Canadian regiment to help Britain in South Africa was discussed lately, one of our politicians asked, "Why should we entangle ourselves in Great Britain's foreign wars, and why should we spend our money and blood in those far-away places?" In the first place, this is not a foreign war. From an Imperial standpoint it is very much a domestic war. It is not merely a matter of the ill-treatment of our fellow-subjects in the Transvaal, but whether we are to abandon our fellow-colonists in the Cape and Natal to a misrule comparable only to that of the Turks in Armenia—whether, in short, we are to lose or hold our Empire in South Africa. The Cape, be it remembered, is the halfway house to India, to our possessions in China, to Australasia, and to the smaller islands of the Eastern Hemisphere. If it had not been for the possession of the Cape and the ability of Great Britain to send reinforcements thence to India, during the great mutiny, she would have lost her Indian

Empire then. If it was vital to Britain then, the Cape is doubly so now, when Australia has become a daughter nation, and other Eastern lands have increasing claims upon her. South Africa is, in fact, the key of the Empire in the Eastern, as Canada is in the Western, Hemisphere.

To descend to a lower plane, Canada has a strong commercial reason for seeing British ideas prevail in South Africa. Our manufacturers are now beginning to seek foreign markets, and under the rational rule of Great Britain, a large trade development awaits Canada there. South Africa is the counterpart of Canada. We consume large quantities of goods she has to sell, such as merino wool, hides, and sub-tropical products, while she imports largely of manufactured goods, such as furniture, boots and shoes, textile fabrics, stoves, hardware, machinery, and other manufactures, which we wish to sell. South Africa is essentially a non-manufacturing country, and the United States, having studied the conditions there through its consular agents, has already built up a big and rapidly-increasing trade. Not many years ago the exports of the United States to Africa amounted to but a few thousand dollars annually. In 1898, the shipment of United States goods to British and Portuguese South Africa alone, amounted to over \$16,000,000, the increase over 1897 being a growth of over \$1,480,000, or at the rate of nine per cent. These exports consisted of foodstuffs, books, cotton goods, leather goods, and a long list of manufactured articles, such as agricultural implements, bicycles, hardware, sewing machines, typewriters, carriages, furniture, canned goods, lumber, etc. In almost every one of these lines, Canada is able to compete with the United States. Here and there, it is true, some Canadian manufacturer has already entered the market, but, as a rule, the Canadian exporter is still asleep to the possibilities of that land. It is time we woke up to this, for the trade connections ought to be as close as

the political fraternity, and the sending of the Canadian regiment will tend to strengthen the bonds, both in a commercial and political sense. Further reference to the trade of South Africa will be found in the section of "miscellaneous facts."

As for our duty to Great Britain, as citizens of Canada, when we reflect that in the past twenty years the Mother Country has spent over \$55,000,000, according to J. Castell Hopkins, on the defences of Canada, we owe it to our own self-respect to see that at least some of this is repaid. As citizens of the Empire, does it not seem a duty to defend it when any vital part of that Empire is threatened?

What will be the outcome of the war? In all probability the union of the present colonies and states in a confederation, in principle like that of Canada, but differing in details, to accord with the varying conditions. When the British and Dutch have got together, after the present conflict, they will see, by a study of their past history, that the policy of mutual hate, distrust and intolerance, is a policy that must mark their land with ruin; but the policy of good-will among the white races will make South Africa what its climate and latent resources fit it to become—one of the most delightful in the world. This much is certain, that in the settlement to be made, the British Government will not revisit upon the Boers the injustice under which the Uitlander population has groaned for the past eighteen years, but will see that there shall be absolute equality of rights among the white races, and fair, just treatment of black and white from the Cape to the confines of British Central Africa.

Miscellaneous facts relating to South Africa.

The following miscellaneous information, relating to South Africa, will be of interest to the reader in studying the present conditions:

Mr. Garrett, a well-informed Capetown journalist, estimates the white population as follows, distinguishing the Dutch from the British in the same table:

	Dutch.	British.	Total White Population
Cape Colony and Bechuanaland	265,200	194,800	460,000
Basutoland	300	350	650
Orange Free State	78,100	15,600	93,700
Natal and Zululand.....	6,500	45,500	52,000
Transvaal	80,000	123,650	203,650
Rhodesia	1,500	8,500	10,000
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Total	431,600	388,400	820,000

John Noble's "Handbook of the Cape and South Africa for 1893," gave the area and white and colored population of South Africa, as follows:

	Area sq. miles.	White population.	Colored population
Cape	221,311	376,987	1,150,237
Natal	20,461	42,759	512,817
Pondoland	3,869	100	200,000
Zululand	8,900	548	145,336
Amatongaland	5,300	80,000
Basutoland	10,293	578	218,324
British Bechuanaland	60,777	5,284	55,122
Bechuanaland Protectorate	386,200	500	110,000
Brit. Mashonaland (Rhodesia)	150,000	2,500	250,000
Orange Free State	48,326	77,716	129,787
Transvaal	113,642	160,000*	649,560
Swaziland	8,000	500	63,000
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	1,037,079	667,472	3,564,183

* A white population of 300,000 was generally credited to the Transvaal up to the time of the recent troubles, of which from 70,000 to 90,000 was accorded to Johannesburg.

For the trade tables which follow, the writer is indebted to the "British and South African Export Gazette," an ably conducted paper, published in London in the interest of South African commerce.

The aggregate trade, both imports and exports, of South Africa in the past five years, amounted to about £220,000,000 sterling. This includes an approximate calculation of the 1898 figures. Of this total, the imports of oversea goods represented a sum equal to £108,855,340, and these were imported into South Africa through its several ports in the following proportions:

Ports of Cape Colony	£ 77,623,922
Ports of Natal	21,348,222
Ports of Delagoa Bay.....	9,883,196
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Quinquennial total.....	£ 108,855,340

Of this handsome total Great Britain's share in the export of purely British and Irish goods and manufactures was represented by £62,801,203, and that of the British possessions by £5,799,783, or together £68,600,986, the balance, in round numbers, of £31,000,000, being the contribution of all other countries. The progressive yearly accretions by which these totals have been reached are shown by the following tabulations:

GREAT BRITAIN'S QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE.

1894	£ 8,766,828
1895	11,167,995
1896	14,798,430
1897	14,648,162
1898 (approximate)	13,419,848
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Quinquennial total..... £62,801,223

QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF BRITISH POSSESSIONS.	£
1894	605,561
1895	997,558
1896	1,261,504
1897	1,235,160
1898 (approximate)	1,700,000
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Quinquennial total £5,799,783

QUINQUENNIAL SHARE OF FIVE PRINCIPAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1894	£ 1,414,565
1895	2,188,247
1896	4,432,428
1897	4,503,366
1898 (approximate)	5,500,000
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Quinquennial total..... £18,028,606

The relatively large proportion of a little over one-third of the total trade of South Africa which falls to foreign countries is explained by the fact of the heavy imports in recent years of grain, foodstuffs, and live and dead meat, necessitated by the drought and rinderpest and the devastations of locusts, which have afflicted her agricultural and herding industries for several years past. The extent of this huge oversea buying of British and foreign goods would manifestly be impossible unless South Africa possessed purchasing "media" for their acquisition. These are furnished her by her rich and practically inexhaustible stores of native gold, diamonds and other minerals, wool and other raw products. Without this extraordinary natural wealth, the tale and total of her imports, as of her exports, would be far other than they are. As it is, despite temporary depressions, deficits, exports of specie, etc., her movement of trade represents in the aggregate a tangible, actual and lasting progress and prosperity, the rills and broad streams of which beneficially water the utmost confines of the sub-continent.

The imports into the Cape Colony amounted approximately to £16,845,955 at the end of 1898, having made an average advance of over £5,000,000 since 1894—in fact, if compared with the figures for 1897, an actual advance of £7,000,000. In the same quinquennium Natal's imports showed progress from £2,316,596 to approximately £5,127,887, or an enhancement at the handsome rate of 121 per cent. This was even more than the relative progress of either the South African Republic or the Cape Colony, the latter gaining only 49 per cent., and the former 61 per cent. on the earliest year. It is noteworthy that the former's total—£54,332,227—is nearly exactly half of the aggregate of South African imports, and shows the over-weighting factor the Republic forms in the commercial expansion of the sub-continent. A modest contributor at present to the general trade budget—but one which may possibly in the future dispute the leading place with the last named—is Rhodesia. Quinquennial totals are not available in its case, but its last two years' trade returns are significant of its future importance. In the twelve months up to the end of June, 1897, they amounted to £245,923, and to the end of June, 1898, to £574,184, or an increase of 94 per cent. The appended comparison of the percentages of progress of the trade of the past quinquennium of India, Canada, Australia and the colonies of the Cape Colony, Natal, and Rhodesia, and the South African Republic is given by *The Gazette*:

QUINQUENNIAL PROGRESS OF OTHER BRITISH POSSESSIONS
AS COMPARED WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

	Rate of	
	Quinquennial Progress.	
South Africa—		
Natal	121.0 per cent.	
Rhodesia	94.0 per cent.	
South African Republic	61.0 per cent.	
Cape Colony	49.0 per cent.	
Other British Possessions—		
Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Fiji..	40.0 per cent.	
Dominion of Canada	8.0 per cent.	
India (including Burmah, Straits Settlements, and Ceylon)	0.2 per cent.	
Average for South Africa	71.0 per cent.	
Average for other British Possessions....	16.0 per cent.	

The ratio of progress in imports alone of South Africa compared with those of our chief colonies and dependencies—India, Australia and Canada—is not less instructive. As against a total for South Africa of £108,000,000. Canada has only an import volume of £26,000,000 to show, and Australia of £97,000,000; while the vast continent of India only surpasses South Africa by her £157,000,000 of imports in the five years.

W. Bleloch, in a paper recently read before the Geological Society of South Africa, confirms the theory first propounded by Dr. F. G. Becker, of the United States Geological Survey, that the Witwatersrand gold-bearing rocks are due to the formation of a series of sub-shore deposits banked up by ocean currents and waves against a sloping shore. At first sight this is only of interest to geologists and mining experts. If, however, it should be confirmed by subsequent tests, it will have far-reaching effects upon the Rand gold mining industry, and equally upon commerce. For instance, payable reefs should exist under the major portion of Johannesburg itself, whilst the Main Reef series would be found underlying the overlaps of more recent beds from Vlakfontein to Venterspost, thereby opening up an enormous area of country for mining purposes, and extending the life of the Rand as a gold producing centre far beyond the 100 or more years already predicted for it by the world's leading experts. It

is estimated by Frederick H. Hatch, in the "Engineering Magazine," of New York, that within the next five years the number of stamps in the gold mining district of the Witwatersrand will be increased to over 12,000. The average duty of a stamp here is 1,500 tons per year, or a total of 18,000,000 tons, which, at the present grade of 9 to 10 dwts. of fine gold, or 40s. per ton, would give £36,000,000 sterling per annum.

The coal deposits of the Transvaal are estimated at 235,000,000,000 tons, or 37,000,000,000 tons over those of the coal beds of Great Britain.

Glossary of Cape Dutch and Kafir Terms.

Baaken—Landmark.
Banket—The conglomerate reef peculiar to the Witwatersrand.
Bewaarplaatten—Areas granted for the conservation of water, or for depositing the residue of ores.
Berg—Mountain, as Tafelberg (table mountain), Drakensberg (Dragon's mountain), etc.
Besluit—Resolution, order-in-council.
Boer—Farmer; applied by the English to the Dutch of the country districts.
Bosch—Thicket or bush.
Burg—Town.
Burgher—Voter, elector. Applied by the Dutch to their own citizens as distinguished from aliens.
Commandeer—To call out for military service.
Commando—A military force. The word conveys no meaning as to numbers. A commando may consist of a hundred men, or a thousand or more.
Donga—Ravine.
Dorp—Village.
Drift—Ford.
Droogeveld—Dry pasture country.
Duin or Dune—Sandhill.
Fontein—Fountain or spring, as Bloemfontein (fountain of flowers).
Heuvel—Height, or hill.
Hoek—Corner, or secluded valley.
Hoogte—Height; Hoogteveld, the high ground.
Inspan—To harness up. Outspan or uitspan, to unharness or untether.
Karoo—Desert land covered with scrubby plants.
Klip—Rock.
Kloof—Mountain pass, or gully.
Kop—(Literally a head), hence an isolated hill.
Kopjie—Little hill.
Kraal—Collection of native huts; also a cattle enclosure.
Krantz—Cliff.
Laagte—Low land or valley, as Elandslaagte (Eland valley).
Nachtmaal—(Literally night meal), the quarterly communion service.
Nek—Neck, applied to a depression between two mountains.
Raad—An assembly; the legislature.

Rand—Highland; as Witwatersrand (the White-water-highlands).

Slim—Cute, cunning.

Sluit—An artificial water course.

Spruit—Creek.

Trek—to travel; to move; hence voortrekkers (literally fore-runners), pioneers.

Uitlander—(Pronounced as nearly as possible ate-lont-er), outsider; alien.

Vlei—Shallow pan or valley, sometimes covered with water.

Veld or Veldt—(Literally a field), an extent of country.

Veldtschoen—Sort of moccasin.

Volksraad—The national council, or parliament.

Witwatersrand—See Rand.

Zarp—Policeman.

In Cape Dutch, which is a patois, aa has the sound of aw. Example, raad (rawd). V has the sound of f, and w the sound of v; ji has the sound of ye, as for example Kopjie (Kop-ye); and ei the power of a long i, as for example Bloemfontein (Bloom-fon-tyne, though this is pronounced by some, Bloom-fon-tane). It is accented on the last syllable. Kruger is usually pronounced by the Boers—Kreeger.



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